BRAILLE AUTHORITY OF NORTH AMERICA

BOARD CONFERENCE CALL

August 10, 2011

Minutes

Call to Order--Judy Dixon

BANA Chairperson Judy Dixon called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

Jefferson Lyons introduced Susan Spicknall of National Braille Press.

The following Board Members participated in the conference call.

- Judith (Judy) Dixon, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress (NLS), Chair
- Mary Nelle McLennan, American Printing House for the Blind (APH), Vice Chair
- Jennifer Dunnam, National Federation of the Blind (NFB), Secretary
- Kim Charlson, American Council of the Blind (ACB), Immediate Past Chair
- Darleen Bogart, CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind)
- Frances Mary (FM) D'Andrea, American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)
- May Davis, Associated Services for the Blind (ASB)
- Cindi Laurent, National Braille Association (NBA)
- Jefferson Lyons, National Braille Press (NBP)
- Kim McEachirn, Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CCBVI)
- Susan (Sue) Reilly, California Transcribers and Educators of the Blind and Visually Impaired (CTEVBI)
- Diane Wormsley, Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER)

Joanna Venneri participated in her role as Administrative Assistant.

Bonnie Grimm (Braille Institute of America, BANA Treasurer), was unable to attend.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus as distributed.

Committee Reports

Crafts and Hobbies--May Davis

The crocheting and knitting guidelines are currently under review. Work on chess guidelines has begun.

Formats--Sue Reilly and Cindi Laurent

The committee continues work on the final revision of the Formats document. Changes to later sections sometimes require changes to earlier sections, so they will not send anything for BANA approval until the work is complete. It is expected that within the next month the board should receive work to begin reviewing.

The issue of use of the BANA listserve was raised on the conference call, and the board respectfully requests that the Formats Committee use the BANA-Formats listserv to conduct its committee work.

Foreign Language—Kim Charlson

Work on the manual continues to be on hold pending approval of Formats. Discussion occurred about the problem of including actual rules from Formats in other code books rather than referencing the Formats book; the Early Literacy Materials Production committee has deliberately decided to avoid this practice so that changes in other code books do not result in conflicts between the books. It is hoped that those developing other code books will do likewise.

Tactile Graphics--Mary Nelle McLennan

Several months have been spent on the copy editing procedure for the guidelines. Much was learned so that a better system can be crafted to finish the other publications. It was necessary on a few occasions to ask the Tactile Graphics committee for clarifications during this process. Appendix D and the bibliography are being withheld so that the rest of the work can be released more quickly. The HTML version of the guidelines has been released. The document will need to be re-structured in order to create the PDF, for consistent use of styles.

The question of who from the tactile graphics committee should answer questions from the public has been raised and will be a topic of discussion in the near future.
The publications committee is asked to come to the November meeting with a recommendation on a mechanism for dealing with questions in general that come to BANA.

Education and Outreach--FM D'Andrea

There has been significant positive feedback from braille readers on the first installment of the "Evolution of Braille" article. We are striving to get the second article done in time to be published in October.

Presentations were made at NBA and CTEBVI in the spring, and at NFB and ACB during the summer conventions. There will be a presentation at AERBVI this coming weekend, and at other conferences in the fall.

Braille Research--Diane Wormsley and FM D'Andrea

The committee has created the method for compiling the data from the crafts and hobbies review. Additionally, the committee was charged with creating a plan for conducting an impact analysis on adopting either UEB, NUBS, or making no major change. Two teleconference meetings have been held. The committee has gone further than creating a plan, having made a grid showing the places where there would be an impact and attempting to show the associated costs. Work is ongoing, and the final product will be ready for the November meeting. The current version of the grid was forwarded to BANA-l.

Awards Committee- Darleen Bogart

The committee deliberated via teleconference on nominations received for this year's award, and made a recommendation. The board approved the recommendation with all those on the call voting "yes". (The complete motion will appear as part of the Fall meeting minutes)

An appropriate venue for presenting the award is being researched. Darleen commended the work of the committee.

Committee on Standardized Testing

MSC Diane Wormsley moved and Sue Reilly Seconded the motion to add Debbie Willis as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Standardized Testing. The motion passed unanimously.

Computer Braille Technical Committee

MSC Cindi Laurent moved and Darleen Bogart seconded the motion that the Computer Braille Technical Committee be charged to 1) clarify whether the order of the computer code symbols

listed in the update is the specific order in which they are to be listed on the special symbols page; 2) provide a rationale for the decision; and 3) add the clarification and rationale to the CBC update.

Strategic Planning--Diane Wormsley and Mary Nelle McLennan

The SPIT team will hold meetings with the task force leaders who are working on the two priorities (communications and outreach/education) sometime before the fall board meeting.
Strategic planning will be on the fall agenda, and there was discussion of giving it a different name since we are in more of an action phase now.

BANA Fall Meeting—Jennifer Dunnam

The hotel for this meeting will be the Holiday Inn Inner Harbor. Hotel and other arrangement details will be sent to the board members shortly. The Open forum will occur Thursday evening at 6:00 at the NFB building. The Friday and Saturday meetings will also take place at NFB, and the Sunday morning meeting will be at the hotel. There is complementary wireless throughout the hotel. A tour of the building will be scheduled during part of one of the lunch hours.

Darleen Bogart will coordinate the sending of a communication from BANA to the family of Bettye Krolick, who recently passed away. Bettye made large contributions in the arena of braille music and other aspects of work with blind people.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM Eastern Standard Time.